

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS



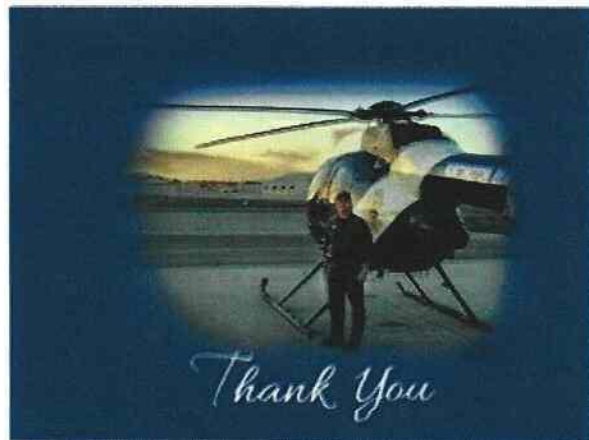
COMMUNICATIONS

Our 2nd Quarter Newsletter is dedicated to issues that directly affect our Huntington Beach Neighborhood Watch Communities. In this issue, we offer information on how our 911 operators would like you to communicate your emergency needs during a critical event. These events can happen to anyone and the articles in this issue will speed the process should you experience a life and death emergency in your neighborhood.

We would also like to dedicate this issue to our fallen officer, Nick VeDa. Officer Ve11a, as our “eye in the sky,” provided critical communications to our officers and first responders on the ground. Please remember Officer VeRa and our 6ne men and women in blue who dedicate their service to our community.

Remembering our Fallen

“One year has passed, and there are still no words khat can adequately express this loss,” Chief Parra He said. “We will always remember Nick on this day. was a selfless man and driven police officer whom we were blessed to have known.”



911 FACTS

The city of Huntington Beach is just over 32 square miles with a population of approximately 200,000 residents. In addition to the many people who work in or travel through the city we host over 16 million visitors per year. The Huntington Beach Police Department's Communication Center is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. **Over the last couple of years, Communications**

COMMUNICATIONS FACTS

The Communications Center (Dispatch) uses an encrypted radio. No one can hear what is said between the Communications Operators and the Officers.

- **All incoming and outgoing phone calls and radio traffic are recorded all the time.**
- **The Communications Center uses a Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) which cannot be accessed by anyone outside of the Huntington Beach Police Department.**

ONLINE REPORTING

Did you know you can generate some reports at your convenience on the internet? Go to HBPD.org and select "Report a Crime Online."

- **Minor Thefts /Vehicle Burglary**
- **Vandalism**
- **Hit and Run Accidents** And more!

COMMUNICATIONS OPERATORS -FACTS

- a **9-1-1 should only be used to report a threat to someone's life or safety and crimes in progress.**
- c **If you call 9-1-1 on a cell phone, the Communications Operator does not know location.**
- o **The Communications Operator you speak with on the phone is usually not the same person who is talking to officers.**
- o **Answering questions does not delay emergency services. It helps emergency personnel operate more effectively, safely, and to use resources more efficiently.**
- a **Disconnected landlines and cell phones with batteries can still call 9-1-1.**
- a **Please do not let children play with old phones.**

FOR THE FRIDGE!**911 Dispatcher - The Toughest Job You'll Ever Love**

When calling 9-1-1 remember:



- o **Have the address or the location of the emergency ready.**
- o **Tell the Communications Operator if you need assistance from the police, fire, or paramedics**

**Reminder from our Community Relations Specialist Haley Yantorn**

Interested in starting a Neighborhood Watch Program for your area? This program is designed for the citizen to take an active role in building a safer community. Here's how it works:

- o Get together with your neighbors and decide when to hold your first meeting. Pick a date and time that is convenient for as many neighbors as possible.
 - o Call and schedule your first meeting with the Community Relations Specialist.
 - o Decide where you will hold your meeting. It can be at your house, your front yard, the community park or at the end of your cul-de-sac.
 - o Try to keep your watch group confined to your immediate neighborhood. You can talk to surrounding neighbors and if they are interested, they can form their own group and you can hold your meetings together.
 - o Representatives from HBPD and/or Neighborhood Watch Board will attend your first meeting.
- We will provide crime statistics in your area, as well as answer any questions you have.

- o Select a Block Captain (see article below for more information on the duties of a Block Captain).
- o You do not want a group so big that it becomes a full-time job for the person acting as the Block Captain.
- o Join the Huntington Beach Police Department social media pages: Nextdoor, Instagram, FacebookK MyHB. These will provide additional information to your group on what is happening throughout the city

Your group will be successful if every household takes an active part. Everyone in the house should have an active role, even children. Your Neighborhood Watch group should meet on a regular basis at alternate homes so as not to burden any one household. Discuss what is going on in the community, plan events and discuss what is best for your neighborhood. Invite a speaker to your meetings. City Fire, Code enforcement, Alarm companies, lighting contractors and security specialists will be happy to come out and talk to you about their role in the community and their products. You can join Ne:xtdoor.com and let everyone in your neighborhood post comments and suggestions. There is not any one way to run your group each one is different, with different problems and different solutions Do what works best for your neighborhood. You can also visit the Neighborhood Watch website for more information and products, htMs WWUBL9a

Remember, we are here to help you every step of the way. With your eyes and ears, we can make a difference and prevent criminals from preying upon your community. Feel free to call me with your questions or concern

Hayley Yantorn Community Relations Specialist

Hyantorn@hhbpd.org (714) 335-0085



BLOCK CAPTAINS AND THEIR ROLE IN THE COMMUNITY

A Block Captain's job is simple. You are the point of contact for your neighbors and the Police Department. The Police Department will occasionally send out information to you as Block Captain for your community. When you receive this information, it is your responsibility to disseminate the information to your neighbors.

- o **You will be required to keep all contact information current and up to date.**
- o **When a new resident moves into your neighborhood, you are asked to welcome them to the neighborhood, provide Neighborhood Watch information and, if they are interested in joining, have them attend your next neighborhood meeting+**
- o **How you manage your group is up to you. We recommend meeting on a regular basis. But there are also other ways such as the neighborhood website; email; block parties, or by neighborhood newsletters.**
- o **Assign a co-captain or you can alternate annually to the post of Block Captain.**

Your efforts will be rewarded with a safer community, peace of mind, and knowing you are part of the solution. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at Hyantorn@hbpd.org or (714) 335-0085

VACATION HOUSE CHECK

As a Huntington Beach resident, you have the advantage of a Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) in your city. One of the many services RSVPs offer HB residents is vacation checks. If you are going on vacation, notify the HBPDP RSVP once to sign up for a vacation check. RSVPs will conduct an exterior security check of your home. Exterior areas of your home that are not accessible will not be checked. If something appears suspicious, the RSVPs will call for the assistance of a police officer. Please try to provide us with at least a 1-week notice (due to scheduling).



We do understand that, in an emergency this may not always be possible. If you have any questions or need more information about the HBPD RSVP Program, please call the RSVP office: 714-374-1507. House checks are not performed on Saturdays or Sundays. Vacation House Checks are performed based on availability of volunteers. Courtesy of the HBPD Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)

Opportunities to Participate!

Call (714) 536-5245 for any of the following programs:'

Neighborhood Watch Board - Meet monthly to discuss programs or events they can assist with or organize.

- o **Serve as speakers** - at Block Meetings and distribute crime prevention information at various events.
- o **Neighborhood Watch Newsletter Assembly** - Assemble newsletters, prepare for mailing and distribution.

o **Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)** - Retired members of the community must be 55 or older and complete an RSVP Academy. RSVP's must donate 24 hours monthly. This is a uniformed assignment where volunteers provide a variety of services. They conduct vacation residence checks, remove illegal signs, staff front desk and substations, conduct station tours, visit schools, fingerprinting of children, distribute crime prevention pamphlets, assist with clerical assignments, and represent the Police Department at various events.

o **Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS)** - Apply for this program upon successful completion of the Citizen's Academy. Requirements include donating at least 60 hours of service annually by assisting at special community events and Police Substations; distributing Neighborhood Watch newsletters; and volunteering for clerical and other various assignments.



Wildlife Watch Program

In partnership with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Huntington Beach Police Department volunteers have been given the opportunity to complete a 3-day Wildlife Watch training course. During this course, volunteers were provided essential information about coyote behavior and given the skills and tools necessary to facilitate and educate neighborhoods on safer coyote-human interactions. This program is part of the Neighborhood Watch Program. The course is 10 hours of training for certification. Please check out the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for classes that may interest you!

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Keep-Me-Wild/Coyote>

REMEMBER TO LEASH YOUR DOG!



The Huntington Beach Police Department and Orange County Animal Care want to remind residents that they must keep their dogs on a leash when in public areas.

HBMC I3.48.o70 Animals, HBMC 7.o4.OIO Adoption of County Ordinances and Orange County Codified Ordinance (OCCO) 4-1-45 Restraint of Dogs states—in part: "No person owning or having charge, care, custody or control of any dog shall cause, either willfully or through failure to exercise due care or control, any such dog to be upon any public property unless such dog be restrained by a substantial chain, or leash not exceeding six (6) feet in length, and is under the charge of a person competent to exercise care, custody, and control over such dog. This means your dog must be leashed anytime your dog is off your property. Your dog must be on a leash no longer than six (6) feet in length and in the care of a competent person. The absence of a leash is lawfully allowed only in designated "dog parks."

Animals allowed to roam off leash may create a public nuisance by destroying property and causing injuries to themselves and others, all of which may result in a civil action or lawsuit against the owner.

FOR THE FRIDGE



Hours of operation:

8:00am-5:00pm daily

(714) 935-6848 or (949) 249-5160

5:00pm - 8:00am nightly

(714) 935-7158



Police Emergency 911



Non-Emergency/Dispatch (714) 960-8825

- o **Information Desk (714) 960-8843**
- o **Graffiti Hotline (714) 960-8861**
- o **POLICE Business Line (714) 960-8811**
- o **Community Relations (714) 536-5245**
- o **Vacation House Checks (714) 374-1507**
- o **Neighborhood Watch (714) 536-5245**
- o **O.C. Animal Care (714) 935-6848**

Your Neighborhood Watch Volunteers!

**Executive Board of Directors & Executive Committee & Speakers
Bureau**

President: Nobu Stillwell

Vice President: Carole Grant

Secretary: Barbara Rier

Treasurer: Laura McDonald

Newsletter Editors: Carl & Alison Jablonski

Volunteers: Dellamarie Bonomo, Mary Beth Czarnecki, Jim Dwyer, Christine

Fairchild

Member at Large: Jeanne Petrocena

HBPD Patrol Areas Map

Huntington Beach Police patrol areas are the Northwest, Northeast, Southwest, Southeast, and Downtown. Your RD (Reporting District) is the half-mile square surrounding your home. To locate your area and RD, please check the map on page 10. Please get to know which area of the city your home is located.



**TAKE A BITE OUT OF
CRIME**

City of
Huntington Beach

